

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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PASS TO DR. BRYANT, OIH/HEW, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, WHO
SUBJECT: UN FINANCES: CURRENCY OF WHO BUDGET

REF: (A) GENEVA 8358, (B) GENEVA 8564, (C) STATE 145959

1. IN MEETING TO DISCUSS CALCULATION OF 1980-81 BIENNIAL BUDGET, REPORTED SEPTTEL, FURTH INTRODUCED SUBJECT OF U.S. TAKING LEAD AT NOVEMBER PROGRAM COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE PRESENT SYSTEM OF STATING WHO BUDGET IN DOLLARS. FURTH ANTICIPATES PROPOSAL TO SWITCH TO SWISS FRANCS OR A COMBINATION OF FRANCS AND DOLLARS. ACCORDING TO FURTH, MAHLER PREFERS LEAVING IT AS IT IS, ARGUING THAT ONLY SOME 30 PERCENT OF WHO EXPENDITURES ARE IN FRANCS.

2. SECRETARIAT PAPER ON WAYS AND MEANS TO REDUCE EFFECT OF EXCHANGE, WHICH IS NOW WITH SWISS FOR CONCURRENCE, IS EXPECTED TO BE DISTRIBUTED BY END OF SEPTEMBER. IT WILL ASSUME NO CHANGE IN DENOMINATION OF CURRENCY.

3. HOWEVER, GIVEN ILO AND WMO PRECEDENTS REPORTED IN REFS A AND B, AS WELL AS DISCUSSION IN JANUARY 1978
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EXBD, ISSUE IS CERTAIN TO RISE. AS FURTH POINTS OUT UK AND U.S. ARE ONLY GG MEMBERS ON 9-MEMBER PROGRAM COMMITTEE AND UK AS CHAIRMAN IS NEUTRALIZED.

4. THE GENEVA GROUP TAKES CREDIT FOR DEFEATING THE PROPOSAL IN ILO. IT WOULD THEREFORE SEEM APPROPRIATE THAT AT SEPTEMBER 6 GENEVA GROUP GENERAL MEETING, UNDER

OTHER BUSINESS, A MEETING OF GG (WHO) BE SCHEDULED FOR
PRIOR TO PROGRAM COMMITTEE.

5. WE AGREE WITH REF C THAT FRONTAL ATTACK ON ISSUE IS
NOT INDICATED. HOWEVER, GIVEN COMPOSITION OF PROGRAM
COMMITTEE, U.S. MEMBER SHOULD BE FULLY PREPARED TO FIGHT
TO MAINTAIN STATUS QUO.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: AN INDICATION OF PROBABLE U.S.
POSITION AND TENTATIVE STRATEGY WOULD BE USEFUL BEFORE
SEPTEMBER 6 GENEVA GROUP MEETING, ESPECIALLY SINCE
FRG REP ON GENEVA GROUP, WHO IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN
INSTRUMENTAL IN ILO SITUATION, WAS PRESENT AT MEETING
WITH FURTH. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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